Joint Naval Exercise by India and France

2008. SHRI DHULESHWAR MEENA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and France have agreed in priciple to undertake joint naval maneouvres in the Indian ocean;

(b) whether France has a significant naval presence in the Indian ocean with a base at La Reunion;

(c) whether the France aid package to Pakistan which include two squadrons of Mirage 2000s; submarines, mine-sweepers and a nuclear plant poses serious military implications for India; and

(d) if so, the rationale behind India's closer military relationship with France?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) and (d) The Indian and French Navies participated in Joint Exercises in the Arabian Sea off Bombay on the 29th March, 1992 The Government's policy is to develop and strengthen relations with all friendly countries.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Government closely monitor all developments in the region that have a bearing on national security, including the acquisition of weapons by the neighbouring countries and take appropirate measures to ensure full defence preparedness at all times.

Reduction in defence expenditure

2009. SHRI S. MADHAVAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) what steps have been taken to reduce the expenditure on Defence;

(b) whether there is any proposed to enter into arms reduction treaty with Pakistan; and

(c) whether it is a fact that India has to invest more funds on Defence to face the accumulations of war weapons by Pakistan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) Economy measures initiated include reduction in consumption of Fuel, Oil & Lubricants; review of all ongoing projects/schemes; effective personnel management; review of inventories; sale of surplus/obsolete stores and land; review and rationalisation of the scale and duration of all training courses/exercises/ practice camps; optimum utilisation of transport, modernisation of the existing equipment; indigenisation; use of simulators etc.

(b) and (c) Government believe that it is in the interest of both India and Pakistan to take steps to improve relations between the two counries. This would lead to reduction in defence spending and the availability of scarce resources for developmental activity. However, such reduction is possible only if there is a perceptible improvement in the security environment of the region.

2010. [*Transferred to the 13th May 1992*]

भारतीय भाषाओं के लिए कम्प्यूटर कोड का मानकीकरण

2011. **श्री प्रमोद महाजन :** क्या प्रधान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) भारतीय मानक ब्यूरो द्वारा विशेषज्ञों की विस्तृत राय लिए बिना भारतीय भाषाओं के लिए कम्प्यूटर कोड का मानकीकरण कर दिए जाने के क्या कारण हैं;